

Rev. Paul A. Hottinger

Martyr for Principle Beheading of St. John the Baptist Monday, August 29, 2016
8:15 AM 1 Cor 2:1-5; **Mk 6:17-29** (If we live in a world, in a society where no one has any conscience, we are in big trouble.)

The story of the death of **John the Baptist** is a story that has been replayed over and over again in different circumstances. **In this scenario no one has a conscience:** not Herod, not Herodias, not the daughter, not the soldiers, nobody! Everyone just does what they want or what they think someone else wants. And so **John is considered a martyr**, a martyr for truth or a martyr for justice **because he stood up for principle.**

Now the principle that he stood up for in itself isn't that important. It's just that he stood for principle. **People need to take stands, and yet it often gets them into trouble.** They lose friendships. They lose business. They lose family members. They lose all kinds of things. But the point is if we live in a world, **in a society where no one has any conscience**, we are in big trouble. Nothing good can come from such a situation. **We are truly in mortal peril.** That is the point of this gospel.